

\$70 billion in revenues over the next 15 years; adding to the public debt burden.

It is important to note that 80 percent of known oil and natural gas reserves are in areas where drilling is already permitted. The Department of the Interior has already offered leases for 267 million acres of the outer-continental shelf; however, energy companies have only taken the initiative to explore 24 million of those acres already available to them. It would be insensible to risk these coastal environments before companies have even exhausted the exploration of areas they are already permitted to drill.

America's families need real relief from high-energy costs. Even if this measure had addressed this issue in the most optimal manner, offshore exploration remains an expensive, slow, and risky way of addressing the nation's energy crisis. The Federal Government should be investing resources to advance energy efficiency, conservation, and the development of alternative fuels, which can provide immediate relief to American citizens, not reinforcing our nation's gluttonous appetite for oil.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 4761.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARK JAGET

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mark Jaget, who recently competed in the Gobi March, a 7 day 150-mile footrace across China's Gobi Desert.

Mark Jaget is a chiropractor who owns three Spinal Rehabilitation Centers in Southern Nevada with his brother, David. He and his wife Clare have two children, Sebastian, who is 7, and Tristan, who is 5. Mark enjoys endurance running and has competed in several marathons over the years. This year, Mark chose to further challenge himself by competing for the first time in the rigorous Gobi March.

The Gobi March is a 6-stage, 7-day trek across some of the world's most severe terrain, which includes salt flats, sand dunes, rivers, slot canyons and mountain ridges. To add to the challenge of the race, competitors in the Gobi March are required to carry a 7 day supply of food and the supplies necessary to survive on the trek. Despite confronting intense temperatures, 60 mile-per-hour winds and a stress fracture in his foot, Jaget crossed the finish line on June 3, 2006. Although he competed against nearly one hundred experienced endurance runners and ultra marathoners from around the world, Jaget finished the race an impressive 9th place, with a time of 32 hours and 56 minutes.

I applaud Mark Jaget for his unparalleled determination and will to succeed. His resolve to compete at such an outstanding level is an inspiring example of what a person can accomplish when committed to physical preparation and personal fortitude. What is truly inspiring, however, is that Mark chose to race in this grueling competition on behalf of several charities that are devoted to providing for veterans disabled in the War on Terror and to honoring the men and women who serve in the United States Military. I cannot think of a

more commendable way to show appreciation for those who serve and sacrifice for our great country and for the cause of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mark Jaget on the floor of the House for his extraordinary accomplishment. I commend him for his overwhelming determination to achieve personal excellence and I appreciate his commitment to honoring the United States Military. Mr. Jaget has set a wonderful example for his family and his community and I wish him well in all his future endeavors.

SUPPORTING INTELLIGENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS TO TRACK TERRORISTS AND TERRORIST FINANCES

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to House Resolution 895 and in support of a better alternative, H. Res. 900 introduced by Congressman FRANK.

H. Res. 895 intends to express the sense of Congress that we are in support of intelligence and law enforcement programs used to track terrorists and terrorist finances when these programs are consistent with Federal law and with appropriate Congressional consultation. H. Res. 895 also specifically condemns the disclosure and publication of classified information that impairs the international fight against terrorism and needlessly exposes Americans to the threat of further terror attacks. Although I agree with these basic tenants, H. Res. 895 includes several statements that cannot be factually confirmed as of yet by the vast majority of Members of Congress.

No Congressional Committee has formally looked into the terrorist finance tracking program. The Financial Services Committee will not hold its first oversight hearing on this topic until July 11, 2006. Although H. Res. 895 includes a clause stating that Congress has been fully informed on the terrorist finance tracking program, we cannot ask Members of Congress to affirm specific statements about the legality and constitutionality of a program that have yet to be independently confirmed. I simply cannot state something to be a fact that I do not know to be a fact. To do so would be a disservice to the people of North Carolina's Second District I have sworn to serve.

In contrast, H. Res. 900 expresses the same sense of Congress in support of lawful programs used to track terrorists and terrorist finances, as well as the condemnation of the disclosure of classified information, while remaining free of any of these unverified statements of fact. H. Res. 900 is a balanced, thoughtful and appropriate statement of Congressional support for vigorous prosecution of the war against the terrorists.

IN SUPPORT OF SUBSIDIZED GUARDIANSHIP

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, across America, too many children remain in the foster care system for far too long. Through efforts known as subsidized guardianship, though, the amount of time from entrance into foster care to permanent placement is being slightly reduced.

Currently, there are more than six million children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives. The reasons vary, some children enter due to the death of a parent, others have been neglected while others have suffered abuse and still more live in foster care because of poverty or the military deployment of a parent. Whatever the reason, these children lack the security that permanent residency affords. I celebrate grandparents and other relatives who unselfishly and at great financial sacrifice provide safe, stable homes for these children. There are compassionate programs such as subsidized guardianship, that permit children to transition from the foster care system into the permanent custody of loving and supportive relatives in a comparatively short period of time.

In my State of Pennsylvania, 7 percent of the children live with non-parent relatives. Grandparents and other relative caregivers are often the best chance for a stable childhood for the children in their care, but their hard work and dedication often go unnoticed. I appreciate and congratulate those who put the interest of our Nation's children first. Future generations will be better because of those who provide the continuing services of subsidized guardianship.

DIRECTING SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO TRANSFER FUNCTIONS OF UNIT OPERATING ON THE TOHONO O'ODHAM INDIAN RESERVATION

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. SHADEGG

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Mr. SHADEGG. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5589, a bill to transfer a Customs Patrol Officers unit known as the "Shadow Wolves," to the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement branch.

The Shadow Wolves were created by an Act of Congress in 1972, establishing a Native American customs unit to operate along the Tohono O'odham Nation's border with Mexico. The unit is entirely composed of Native Americans and is tasked with infiltrating and disrupting drug cartels and smuggling operations along the border.

In March of 2003, I had the opportunity to visit the Tohono O'odham Nation during a Congressional hearing on border security and our anti-drug efforts. I met with the Shadow Wolves, and found them to possess a unique dedication toward pursuing smugglers. Their